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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THAILAND

Strengthening the IPST Regional Teacher Servicing Centres and Developing Science and Mathematics Curricula for Technical and Vocational Education (THA/79/023)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of present approval:	April 1980
Starting date of project activities:	April 1980
Planned completion date:	March 1982
To be executed by:	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Government implementing agency:	Institute for the Promotion of Teaching Science and Technology (Ministry of Education)
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval:	$356 700
Source of UNDP financing:	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. Since 1971 the Institute for the Promotion of Teaching Science and Technology has been engaged in the development, dissemination and implementation of new courses in science and mathematics for the schools of Thailand. After careful study, thought and discussion, it was decided that such new courses would be enquiry-oriented, student-centred and based on the concept of the student's "learning by doing".

*In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost sharing).

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2. The two sub-projects contained within this project are extensions of that basic approach. The first is designed to decentralize the Institute's facilities so as to provide better support to teachers. The second is designed to extend science and mathematics curricula to vocational schools.

3. The Institute has received UNDP/UNESCO assistance since its inception more than ten years ago[1/]. While initial assistance took the form of core institutional support, the present project takes the form of programme support, thereby reflecting the institutional self-sufficiency achieved by the Institute.

II. Objectives

4. Science and Technology Teacher Servicing Centres. The principal objective of this sub-project is to strengthen and decentralize the teaching of science and mathematics in schools throughout Thailand by providing efficient servicing centres to facilitate the implementation and evaluation of curricula. These centres will operate in conjunction with teacher training colleges under the direction of the Institute. By organizing seminars and workshops, the centres will provide locations where teachers can work together, exchange ideas and receive in-service training in the low-cost production, maintenance and repair of equipment and in the use of audio-visual materials. Policy and guidelines for the operation of all centres will be established by the Institute's national staff who will identify the problems and needs of all schools throughout Thailand and, by working together with international staff, will develop various supplementary materials for teaching science and mathematics.

5. Vocational Schools Science and Mathematics Curricula. The principal objective of this sub-project is to plan and promote science and mathematics teaching curricula geared to the needs of vocational schools. Project activities include research, the improvement of teaching techniques, the organization of in-service training for vocational school teachers and the development of supplementary teaching materials and media suited to the different school localities.

III. Inputs

6. Science and Technology Teacher Servicing Centres. UNDP inputs consist of four man-months of consultancy services, an extensive in-service training component designed for personnel of the new servicing centres, and equipment. The Institute will act as co-ordinator for all servicing centres throughout the country and provide national staff to support the UNDP experts.

7. Vocational Schools Science and Mathematics Curricula. UNDP inputs to this sub-project consist of four consultancies and four study tours of two months each.

1/ DP/SF/R.9/Add.93, and DP/L.232 (Vol. III), p.33.

IV. Financial data

8. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows:

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Personnel	57 000
Training	206 300
Equipment	93 400
	356 700

9. The estimated total value, expressed in US dollars, of the inputs provided directly by the Government to the project is $347,400 in kind and $696,700 in cash.

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